

SOLAR EVAPORATION PONDS - Burying of Contaminated Metals

August 10th, 1992

Re: Buried Radioactive Metals Beneath Solar Ponds

To whom it may concern:

I recently spoke with a few acquaintances who indicated there is a probability of contaminated metals buried underneath the area known as the solar evaporation ponds. The employee I spoke with previously worked at the Rocky Flats facility during the 1960's and into the 1970's. He has requested to be anonymous in the exchange for this information. The exact area would be northeast of Building 776 and north of the 900 area.

He indicated that during a late night overtime assignment he witnessed the burying of contaminated metals. Evidently, he had cut up a truck which was radioactive. The metal components and the truck pieces were then bulldozed into a hole near the solar ponds. As a welder he and his buddies were often required to perform off-record duties while in containment suits. They new these areas were hot...


During the situation, the machine / metal components ignited and caught fire. They were sparking and bright in appearance. It appears they were stored to close together for the substances and due to their chemical nature reacted with other substances, causing the fire. These metal components were on fire and smoldering as they were buried.

My contact has questioned whether the proposed cleanup efforts would find these metal components. The effluent from the ponds would not necessarily be representative of the substances buried beneath the solar ponds. There remains a confusion as to exactly where in the vicinity of the solar ponds and the depth at which these metal components are buried.

Please review this event with your experts and decide if this information is accurate. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

John Tasker



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